

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that on 11/28/01, this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20231.

37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a)	37 C.F.R. § 1.10
<input type="checkbox"/> with sufficient postage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> as "Express Mail Post Office to
as first class mail	Addressee" Mailing Label No.
	<u>EL793862659US</u>

Angela Wendel  
Angela Wendel

**09/980235**  
JCTO Rec'd PCT/PTO **28 NOV 2001**  
**PATENT**

Applicant: **David L. Wellen Owen**  
Serial No.: # 6 Pre-Amendment (A)  
Filed: D. Townsend  
Title: **SCREENS** 08/08/02  
Examiner: Feed K  
Group Art Unit:  
Atty Docket No.: **20762-12**

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

### PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
P.O. Box 2327  
Attn: DO/EO/US  
Arlington, VA 22202

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the above-identified application as outlined below.

### In The Claims

Please delete claims 1-29, without prejudice.

Please add new claims 30-40 as follows:

--30. (New) A fastening means for screening panels, which fastening means includes: fasteners, each fastener as a combination structure having a metal bolt as a tensile component and a polymeric holding component which has a ledge for holding down a panel; and a stringer for use as a joist in a screen frame, the stringer comprising a strip of cross section having a narrow width and depth sufficient to carry vertical reciprocating loads, presenting neither a top nor a bottom web, but a plurality of spaced apart platforms, each platform presenting a fastening formation which receives the tensile component, for securing a panel and a support area around or adjacent the fastening formation for supporting the panel, characterized in that there are a plurality of spaced apart separate fasteners and in that each platform is in the form of a disc having a hole in its center and the hole is immediately above the centroid of the stringer.